

Roundabout Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Isn't the roundabout just another "traffic circle?"

A: Modern roundabouts go far beyond the infamous traffic circles of old. Roundabouts feature traffic calming qualities that force drivers to lessen their pace through the intersection. The design of the roundabout also reduces the number of conflict points and left turns, increasing safety. Also, contrary to the belief about traffic circles, you cannot get "lost" in a roundabout!

Q: Why not just install a traffic signal?

A: While traffic signals continue to be suitable for many intersections, some intersections benefit greatly from roundabouts by reducing vehicle speeds through the intersection and allowing pedestrians to cross a single lane of traffic at a time. Traffic signal operational and maintenance costs are also eliminated with a modern roundabout.

Q: Are roundabouts safe near schools and residences for the elderly?

A: Roundabouts increase the safety of school children and the elderly by making it easier for them to cross a street with the use of the center splitter island. Cars are required to yield to pedestrians at all times, and the slower speeds ensure that caution is used at the intersection whenever pedestrians are in the vicinity.

Q: What do I do if an emergency vehicle follows me into a roundabout?

A: If you enter a roundabout and notice an emergency vehicle behind you, simply continue around the roundabout to the nearest exit and pull off to the side as normal. Pulling to the side within the roundabout may not give the vehicle the clearance they need and could prevent them from reaching their destination as quickly.

If you have additional questions about roundabouts and their use, contact

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Greensboro, NC 27402-3136
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at 373-GDOT (4368)



Getting Around the Roundabout

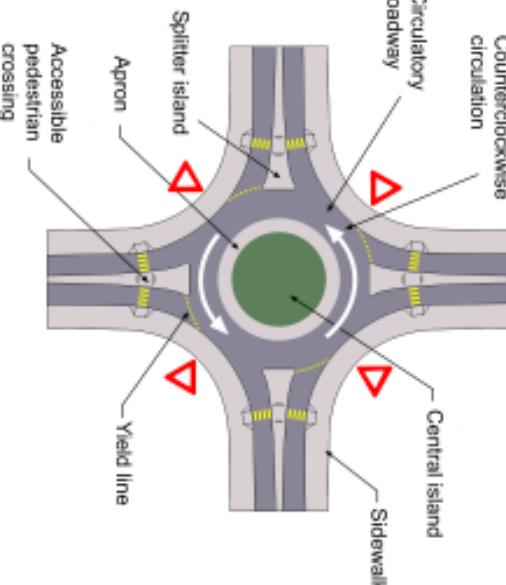
A newer and safer intersection for Greensboro!



Greensboro
Department of Transportation

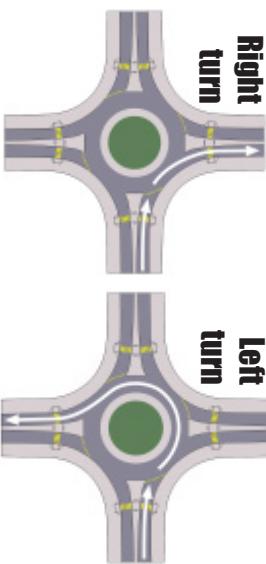
What is a Roundabout?

A roundabout is a circular intersection that moves traffic counterclockwise around a central island. The roundabout's design promotes safety by lowering driving speeds and reducing the number of conflict points. There are only 8 conflict points in a roundabout compared to 32 in a typical 4-way intersection. The fewer conflict points lessens the likelihood of an accident. A roundabout also allows pedestrians to cross streets more safely by crossing one lane at a time. This type of intersection requires no traffic signals because left turns across traffic are eliminated.



Using a Roundabout (cars, vans, small trucks)

- Slow down once you see the roundabout approach sign.
- Look for and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Stop if necessary for traffic in the roundabout and wait for an opportunity to slowly enter the roadway.
- If the way is clear, simply turn right and enter the roundabout.
- Do not stop anywhere inside the roundabout.
- If there is a bicyclist ahead of you in the roundabout, do not pass them. They will move to the shoulder after they have exited the roundabout.
- Again, watch for pedestrians as you exit.
- If you miss your desired exit from the roundabout, simply continue around to take your chosen exit.

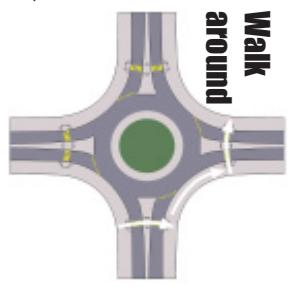


Cyclists

-Note that the roundabout lane is designed to accommodate large vehicles such as trucks and buses.

- Prepare for your turn into the roundabout by hugging the left side of the entry lane.
- Use the specially provided concrete apron for your rear wheels to track over.
- Continue to hug the left side of the lane as you exit the roundabout.

- ## Pedestrians
- Unlike vehicles, pedestrians travel around the roundabout, crossing only at entrance and exit lanes.
- Never walk into the interior of the roundabout or to the central island.
 - Use the provided crosswalks to travel across the roundabout roadway.
 - Make sure to cross one lane at a time, using the splitter island as a refuge between lanes.
 - Although you have the right of way, look for oncoming traffic down every lane as you cross.
 - As you cross, look towards the roundabout for exiting vehicles.
 - Walk around each leg of the roundabout until you reach your desired street.



- ## Anatomy of a Roundabout
- A central island
 - A circular roadway on which all vehicles travel counterclockwise
 - Entry-yield rule that requires drivers to yield to traffic already in the circular roadway
 - Speed-reducing design elements such as splitter islands
 - Areas for landscaping and other aesthetics

- ## Using a Roundabout (large trucks, buses)
- Note that the roundabout lane is designed to accommodate large vehicles such as trucks and buses.
- Prepare for your turn into the roundabout by hugging the left side of the entry lane.
 - Use the specially provided concrete apron for your rear wheels to track over.
 - Continue to hug the left side of the lane as you exit the roundabout.